Bristol, 2nd Mo. 23rd 1846

My dear friend

I send by this Packet and the Daily News; we much like the article from the Boston Correspondent. Have you any knowledge of him? The leader on J. Q. Adams is clever — I hope the papers I send are worth the postage if not, pray say so. —

I have been amused by seeing in the "Liberator" of Jan. 30th Mrs Fry's note to me & Mr Garrison's comments on it. There is no objection, as far as I see, to the publication of the note with the omission of all names which has been observed; but if the purpose of sending it to Mr G. were to induce him to make any alteration in his mode of conducting the "Liberator," or of inducing him to make any allowance for, or even to comprehend the true ground of views differing from his own, I suspect it would be much as effectual as ~~pour~~ attempting to wet a duck by pouring water upon its back. I do not mean to show Mrs Fry that No of the "Liberator," for I am anxious not to prejudice her against the anti-slavery movement which I fear the perusal of G's remarks would rather help to do.

I sincerely lament that the Libr is not conducted more in unison with our views of the desirable characteristics of such a paper: there must be some difference of taste, to me quite inexplicable, between your friends, and those on this side of the Atlantic: yet when you tell me that you removed the plate of flogging the woman from Walker's Narrative, I can hardly suppose that you & I individually, should differ materially.

But you cannot I think approve of the insertion of an article in the "Liberator" of the 16th of January last? That No. contains some interesting documents, Mr Giddings's speech, & the letters of Messrs Emerson & Sumner respecting the N. Bedford Lyceum, but I can lend the paper to no one: — I even put it out of sight away in my own house: had I known of the disgusting article I allude to before it had been seen by any one, I would have cut it out. I doubt if there be any respectable news paper in England which would have inserted such remarks. Advertisements of indelicate works on medical subjects are often inserted in our papers, but they are so ~~inserted~~ introduced as to attract little observation, & simply as advert: Many of our higher toned periodicals, would not introduce any thing of the sort. In our "Bristol Mercury," of which I forwarded you a copy, you will not see these advts. nor in the "Inquirer". If the No. of the "Liberator" for Jany 16 is allowed to lie

about them on the tables of the respectable people of
Boston, I should be amazed! The edit.l comm[?]
I refer to, can do no possible good; — the evil
is not to be thus reached. But pray do not allude
to the subject unless in a future letter unless it
be to say that you do, or do not coincide in
my views as to the Liberator.

I believe I forgot to say in my letter a fortnight
ago, that if you took my hint of sending a letter
in propria persona to the "Inquirer" respecting
the unauthorized publication of part of your
letter to Mr. Armstrong — with something more,
I shall be very happy to ~~[illegible]~~ be the medium
of communic.n so as to save the Editor expense.?

I have completed a rough copy of the
notice of Am.n Slavery & Anti Slavery I had
projected, but it has extended to almost the
length of Chambers's Tract on the subject.
Should it ever reach your shores, it will not
give satisfaction, but I think it will be of
service here. I mean to print it & circulate
it gratuitously. I feel compelled in justice
to the A. Slavery cause amongst us, and as
a point of duty, to modify what I desired
& meditated saying in recommendation
of the "Liberator" as a paper for circulation
here. I could not find fault with any of your people
for withholding their ~~uniting~~ union with our A.S. Society
that expended its own funds in circulating the
Liberator. I do not go so far as to say I should

F. Douglass

Feb. 23. 1846.
~~Take to Boston~~
~~Show W. Phillips~~ -
~~" Garrison?~~

Feb. 1846

Revd. S. May,
Leicester,
Massachusetts.

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on those grounds refuse my cooperation but I could thoroughly excuse others for adopting the course. I presume you think me a fastidious, hypercritical person; but I can assure you it is with deep regret that I should feel bound to say what I do, and that my sentiments on the subject are more moderate than those of the usual circle of my friends — However, God I trust will overrule all for good —

Sincerely Yours J. B. Estlin